



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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A View From The Top

A View From The Top From the Regional Director

This November saw the inaugural national statistics convention held in Australia, NatStats.

The event was a resounding success, not only because of the numbers of attendees (460 delegates), but also because of the outcomes it generated.

What struck me about the Conference was the overwhelming feeling amongst those who attended that we are all doing something very important for Australia. One of the keynote speakers, Enrico Giovannini, Chief Statistician for the OECD, said that if we are passionate about what we do, we should be equally passionate about telling the stories that come out of the statistics. It is the stories that generate the interest that drives effective decision making.

On the same track, we are now familiar with the theory of convergence in the digital world. Mobile phones now tell us everything we want to know from a variety of sources. It strikes me that we are facing the same issues in the statistical world.

We need to tell holistic stories about the state of our community from a range of sources rather than publishing the results of the latest survey. While the ABS is a world leader in this

thinking with initiatives like “Measures of Australia’s Progress” and “Australian Social Trends” (both available on the ABS web site), there is still much we can do.

This was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge across the statistical community and an invaluable experience for all who attended.



Michael Tindall,
Government Statistician and
ABS Regional Director,
Western Australia

Latest WA Statistics

Latest WA Statistics

	WA	Australia
Population (Jun 2008)	2.2m	21.4m
CPI (annual rate, Sep 08)	4.9% (Perth)	5.0%
Merchandise Imports (Sep 2008)*	\$2,910m	\$20,975m
Merchandise Exports (Sep 2008)*	\$8,030m	\$21,628m
Unemployment Rate (Oct 08)	2.5%	4.3%

*** Estimates of Merchandise Imports and Exports based on Australian Custom Service records. Figures are not based on a Balance of Payment basis.**

CDATA Online FREE!

CDATA Online FREE! Your Census at work...

CDATA Online combines a range of information on Australian society from the 2006 Census, with web graphing and mapping software. CDATA Online provides instant access to valuable Census data topics such as age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more. This free online product allows you to create your own tables, maps and graphs of Census characteristics for all ABS geographic areas.

Who would benefit from using CDATA Online?

CDATA Online would suit anyone interested in Census Data, so whether you work in government, small business, part of a community service organisation or in the education sector, CDATA Online would be a great asset.

Which geographic areas are available in CDATA Online?

You can access data for areas as small as a Collection District (approximately 225 households) or as large as an entire state or territory or all of Australia. CDATA Online allows you the freedom to select and combine areas that interest you by creating your own customised geographic areas. Data is available based on Place of Usual Residence and Location on Census Night.

Functionality – the real power of CDATA Online!

CDATA Online gives you the ability to cross tabulate Census data with your geographic areas of interest to produce a customised table which can also be viewed as a graph or thematic map.

CDATA Online allows you to begin by choosing from a list of predetermined tables which you can then customise to suit your own needs. You can add additional data items to your table and remove any existing data items from the table. You can even create your own Census data items by grouping characteristics to suit your own needs.

Free CDATA Online training will be available next year.

The first course will be held on the 26 February 2009. Make sure to keep an eye out for other upcoming courses.

Jingle Bell Imports

Jingle Bell Imports

Christmas comes but once a year...

...and when it comes it brings good cheer'. Global recession notwithstanding, Western Australians look set to have another abundant Christmas Season.

Comparisons between overseas imports to Western Australia in October 2007 and October 2008 show an increase in the value of chocolate imported from \$105,426 to \$182,937. For the same two months, imports of sparkling wines from France increased from 17,453 litres to 36,459 litres contributing significantly to the value of imports which grew from \$161,242 to \$434,850. The value of tricycles and scooters landing on our shores, and suitable for children's gifts, increased from \$180,675 to \$462,090. There was also a pleasing Christmassy increase in the number of imported stuffed toys from 68,738 (\$240,307) in October 2007 to 98,225 (\$329,021) in October 2008.

Although the number of electric train sets is down, which could cause consternation in some circles, only a small decrease from 30,337 sets to 28,238 sets has been reported and may be boosted in November and December import figures. The sounds of Christmas may be a little softer with the reported number of imported toy musical instruments down from 14,133 to 12,374. Fortunately a massive 212,315 latex balloons imported in October will be on hand to see the festive season out with a bang.

Illegal transactions, such as smuggled goods (including Santa and his Elves), are omitted as there is no practical way to collect this information and while ABS statistics don't record reindeers, the ABS can report that there were 8,293 deer in WA as at June 30, 2007. In

seasonally adjusted terms Western Australians spent around \$2 billion in December 2007 up from \$1.89 billion in December 2006.

Off To See The Rellies

More Australian residents travel overseas on Christmas Day to “visit family and friends” (8,605 people last year) including 701 Sandgropers, than those who travel to Australia for the same reason. Short term visitors arriving in Australia on Christmas Day last year numbered 5,162 with 817 celebrating their arrival for Christmas in WA. On Christmas Day last year 1,917 Western Australians left for overseas holidays as part of the lucky 12,494 Australian residents who also departed for foreign shores.

A Busy Night

It looks like Santa is going to be busy in the West on Christmas Eve when he visits approximately 206,000 Western Australian families who have children under the magical age of 15 years. Estimates are not available for the numbers of children categorised as ‘naughty’ and ‘nice’, but at this time of the year we suspect the numbers would be biased toward the ‘nice’ side.

Christmas Places

ABS demographic records also reveal that some Christmas themes, intentional or otherwise, feature in a dozen Australian town and location names. There are Christmas Island, Christmas Creek and Christmas Hills (Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria); Christmas Town, Bells Beach and Shepherds Creek (Vic); Turkey Creek (NT); Wisemans Creek, Wisemans Ferry and Snowball (NSW); and Snowtown (SA). Turkey Hill is the only town identified in WA but that won’t affect Christmas Celebrations in the wild, wild west.

Article by:
Marg Garner,
Information Skills Program
and Christmas Devotee.

Survival Kit

Survival Kit

A Guide to Surviving in Perth

Perth receives many interstate visitors, who seeing that the weather is perfect one day and well, perfect the next, decide to make our fair city their home. However before venturing over to the West, they may need to pack more than their interstate football club membership into their suitcases.

The Ration Pack

It would be a good idea to consider preparing a survival kit, as according to Average Retail Prices of Selected Items for the September quarter 2008, there are a few things that are, on average, a little more expensive in Perth than in other capital cities.

For example it may be a good idea to pack some loin of lamb as the average cost in Perth was \$18.80/kg, which was the highest out of all of the capital cities. Pork more your style? Pork loin chops were the highest at \$15.67/ kg, while Bacon was also the highest at \$4.73/ kg. Fancy a sandwich and a cuppa? You don’t need to bring bread as the average price of white sliced bread in Perth was the second lowest out of all the capital cities (\$3.35 per 650g-750g). Unfortunately you won’t be able to put anything your sanga, as butter was the

highest at \$4.48 per 500g and cheese was the second highest at \$5.58 per sliced 500g pkt. Better throw in some Teabags too as they were the highest at \$3.85 per 180pk. Happily, milk was second lowest at \$3.49 per 2 Ltr bottle, but sadly for the sweet toothed, sugar was the second highest at \$2.77 per 2 kilo bag.

Actually, if you are planning an extended visit to Perth it might be worth your while logging on to the ABS website and downloading a copy of the Average Retail Prices of Selected Items (6403.0.55.001) for a larger list of products. The average prices in this publication are presented for the purposes of making price comparisons between the capital cities for individual items and the publication is published quarterly. Sometimes the selected grades, brands, package size, etc. for some items differ between cities and may also differ from one period to the next due to changes in product specifications.

However it is a handy reference guide to check what prices are doing between the capital cities and it may help you to choose to relocate somewhere other than Perth especially if you like tea with your milk.

Sunny Side

Cheer up though, there was some good news for Perth this quarter, with some items on the list where Perth was showing the lowest prices. For the healthy amongst us, carrots were the lowest price at \$1.66 per kilo. Is your boss irritating you? Toilet paper was the lowest at \$6.59 (per 8 x 180 sheet rolls). Local sporting team underperforming? Facial tissues were the second lowest at \$2.04 per pack of 170.

BYO

However if you prefer to drown your sorrows, possibly the worst news of all is that it is definitely BYO. Full strength beer came in second highest \$41.67 per 24 x 375ml bottles. Draught Beer (low alcohol) purchased at a public bar was the second highest at \$3.42 per 285ml glass and full strength Draught Beer was second highest at \$3.63 per 285ml glass. Alas, if you are a spirit drinker, Scotch was the highest at \$5.95 per 30ml nip.

It's enough to make you weep into your fermented carrot juice!

Article By:
Nellie Gaynor,
Information Consultant
and Bargain Hunter

Feature Article: North V South

North V South

When Two Tribes Go To WAR

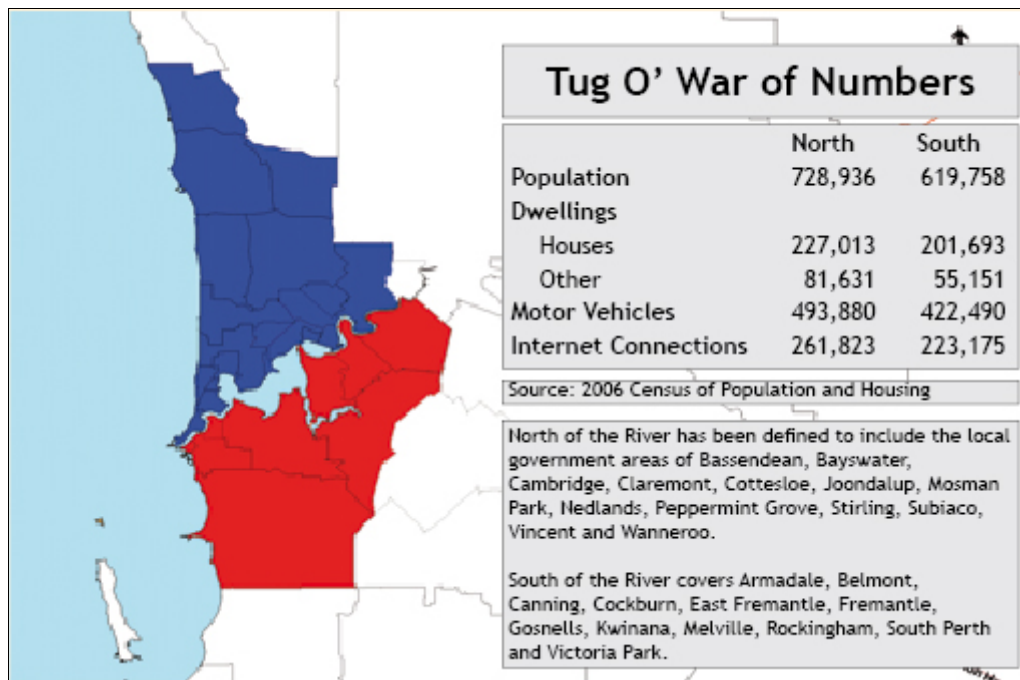
Anyone who's lived in Perth is aware of the great divide that runs through the heart of Western Australia's capital. You're either a high flying yuppie from North of the river or a ute driving bogan from the South....

You're either a blue and yellow blooded Eagles fan, or a dyed (purple) in the wool Docker's supporter. Or you could live in the hills and wonder what all the fuss is about. But is there any truth to the stereotypes regarding people who live North or South of the Swan River? The 2006 Census gives us a possible way of answering this age old question by sifting through the myriad of demographic data, compiled by the ABS (free, I might add, from our

website, www.abs.gov.au).

For the most basic of measures, population, we can see that the Northerners outnumber their Southern counterparts 728,936 to 619,758 as at August 2006. From this data we can conclude that North would win a game of tug of war through superior weight of numbers. However, South would have a distinct advantage if it were a game of tunnel ball.

Maybe we could consider who is smarter? In a game of scrabble or trivial pursuit, the Northerners appear to have a greater chance of victory as they are more likely to have a tertiary qualification. Nineteen of the top 20 suburbs for residents with a diploma-level qualification or higher were found North of the river. Only Waterford managed to scrape in to represent the South.



Show me the Money

Education is fine, but there are some who say “he who dies with the most toys wins”. In terms of earning capacity, the bragging rights also go to the North, with a higher median income than their poorer Southern cousins. Of the 20 highest earning suburbs in Perth, only five lie South of the Swan. The folk with the highest incomes can be found in Subiaco, Peppermint Grove and Cottesloe, with median individual incomes of \$829, \$806 and \$801 per week respectively. Political correctness prevents us from naming those suburbs at the bottom end of the scale.

But it's not all about what you earn, it's how you go about earning your money that really counts in this city. Starting with the world's oldest profession, it appears that there is a higher proportion of sex workers and escorts plying their trade South of the river, but conversely, proportionally more lawyers live North of the Belltower. In fact the 20 suburbs in Perth with the highest proportions of legal professionals were all North of the River. It is debatable whether this can be interpreted as a point for or against the North.

Contrary to popular opinion, suburbs to the South are not awash with tradies. Golden Bay and East Cannington are the only South of the River strongholds of the 20 suburbs with the highest concentrations of construction and trade workers. This analysis seems to indicate that South of the River are more clustered towards the middle of the occupation hierarchy

whereas Northerners are more likely to be found at the extremes. While the South has just 46% of the population it has 57% of the truckies (Road Transport industry). And if the city ever comes under attack you'll have a better chance of surviving South of the River where 71% of our soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel (Defence industries) live.

But if nothing, else Perth can claim to be a sports mad city, at least in terms of watching rather than playing. Overall, the Southern suburbs can claim to have a higher proportion of professional sportspeople than their Northern counterparts. Ascot has the highest proportion, with nearly 1% of the population playing sport for a living. And maybe they can afford to go professional as it appears they can simply ride to their workplace conveniently located in the same suburb. The largest number of sportspeople in total is in Scarborough. Despite the suburb's high total population, a count of just 27 sportspeople is by far the largest of any other area in Perth. Maybe there are some amateur surfers there that overstated their abilities on the 2006 Census form.

Where is the Love?

Turning to matters that some might consider more important than jobs and education, where do you stand a greater chance of finding romance? On average, a lonely young gentleman is more likely to meet a single woman between the ages of 20 and 35 if he focuses his search South of the river, particularly in the suburbs of Murdoch and Waterford, where roughly 76% of the women aged 20 to 35 are single. Similarly, an enterprising young lady searching for the man of her dreams is less likely to find him in Perth if she only looks North of the Swan River. Once again, Waterford and Murdoch are the best hunting grounds, where 86% and 84% of men aged 20 to 35 are single.

In general, the suburbs surrounding the three major universities appear to have the best ratios of young singles throughout Perth. Aside from the suburbs already listed, Winthrop, Dalkeith, Bentley and Crawley feature strongly in the singles stakes. The bleakest areas are commonly found around the new and developing suburbs on the fringes of the Perth Metro area, such as Secret Harbour, Tapping, Butler, Bertram and Ellenbrook. And if you're looking for love, it's not likely that you'll have much success in Success.

The Big Question

But ultimately, the best method of working out which side of the river is superior is to find out the answer to the most important question: Who has the best access to the ABS website? Looking at the statistics on broadband access, it seems that houses in the Northern suburbs have a higher rate of internet access. Of the 20 suburbs with the highest rates of broadband connections, only five Southern suburbs made it onto the list. So North of the river folk are either better informed, or they spend way too much time on the internet and need to get a life.

The Final Verdict

So which is better, North or South? Both sides have their pros and cons, but it may come down to where you grew up, and your own personal preferences. Those North of the river cherish their leafy suburbs and beach lifestyle, whereas those South of the river enjoy the more relaxed pace of living and the cosmopolitan ambience of the Fremantle cafe strip.

Article by Phil Smythe and Paul Burns
of the Client Liaison Unit
and devoted South of the River residents.

Beyond 2000...

... One Hundred and One

Many of us are familiar with the old TV series Beyond 2000, the show that intrigued its viewers with flying cars, futuristic inventions and wacky gadgets. Well, we are almost a decade beyond 2000 and many of the inventions that we thought we would have seen have not quite made it to the consumer market .

Contrastingly, many technological advances that we would never have dreamt of have now become consumer essentials, such as mobile phones that support internet connectivity and small enough to be tucked neatly away into our pockets.

On the Money

Although it has been difficult for some to predict the next big innovation to capture the interest of the consumer market, the ABS has had no difficulty in predicting Western Australia's future population in their Populations Projections publication (cat. no. 3222.0).

When the ABS produced Population Projections in 1993, they estimated that the population of WA in 2011 would be in the vicinity of 2,092,700. In June 2008, the estimated resident population of WA was 2,163,200, just 3% higher than the 1993 prediction. Given that WA has experienced unprecedented growth as a result of the resources boom and an irregular increase in overseas migration over the past few years, we can consider that the prediction made by the ABS 15 years ago to be a very good estimation of the numbers now currently living in WA.

A Can of Sardines

Given the accuracy of previous predictions, the latest population projections for WA that were released by the ABS on 4 September 2008 provide a very interesting insight into our future over the next 50 years.

WA's population is projected to more than double over the period to 2056, from 2.1 million people to 4.3 million people. This is the middle, or 'B', series projection in a series recently released by the ABS. Series B largely reflects current trends in fertility, life expectancy at birth, net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

If you thought that traffic in the city was bad or that it was a tight squeeze to get onto the train during peak hour, most of the State's growth is projected to occur in Perth, where the population is projected to increase from the current 1.6 million to 3.4 million in 2056. In Series B, Perth is projected to experience the highest percentage growth (116%), of Australia's capital cities, followed by Brisbane which will increase from 1.9 million people to 4.0 million people (114%) contrasting with Hobart which is predicted to grow roughly 35% (117,000 to 243,000).

Growing Grey

Not only will the trains be packed, but they will probably contain a higher number of priority seats. The ageing of WA's population, already evident in the current age structure, is expected to continue and is the result of sustained low levels of fertility combined with increasing life expectancy at birth.

By 2056 there will be a greater proportion of people aged 65 years and over than at 30 June 2007, and a lower proportion of people aged under 15 years. The median age of the population of WA is projected to increase from the current 36.4 years to between 41.4 and 45.0 years in 2056.

A Look at 2101

In 2101 there will be an anticipated 136,200 Australians aged over 100 who would have received King William's congratulatory hologram for reaching that milestone. This is 50 times more centenarians than currently (2,800 as at 30 June 2007).

Article By:
Bodi Ledwij,
Client Liaison Unit
(119 years old in 2101)

Statistical News

Statistical News

Developments in ABS Statistics

Energy Use & Conservation

Australian households ranked energy star rating more important than price or brand when buying a refrigerator, freezer or clothes dryer according to a report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation, Mar 2008 (cat. no. 4602.0.55.001) is a publication that presents data on sources of energy in dwellings, use of energy for different activities (e.g water heating, cooking), household insulation, household appliances and types of heating and cooling systems.

Increased Wine Stocks

Wine production has gone up, but lower domestic sales and a drop in exports has led to increased wine stocks according to figures recently released in a publication titled Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2008 (cat. no. 1329.0).

The total grape crush for 2007-08 came in at 1.8 million tonnes, up by nearly a third (31%) on last year; this produced 1.2 billion litres of wine, up just over a quarter (27%).

While production was up, exports of Australian wine fell 9% (to 715 million litres) and domestic sales dropped by 5% (to 426 million litres); the United Kingdom remained the largest importer of Australian wine, taking 268 million litres valued at \$895 million.

Getting Smarter

Qualifications such as Bachelor Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates are being undertaken by more Australians, according to figures released in a publication titled Education and Work, Australia, May 2008 (cat.no.6227.0).

More than 2.5 million people (19% of all Australians aged 15–64) were enrolled in a course of study as at May 2008.

The proportion of people with non-school qualifications (see media note) has increased to 54%, up from 42% in 1998. The proportion attaining a Bachelor Degree or higher has almost doubled, from 14% in 1998 to 22% in 2008.

This publication provides selected information on participation in education, highest educational attainment, transition from education to work and current labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15-64 years.

Who cares?

Around 2.5 million Australians aged 15 years and over care for someone at home because of a disability or old age, according to the ABS publication titled A Profile of Carers in Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 4448.0).

The publication provides an overview of the characteristics and activities of people who provide informal assistance to someone with a disability, long-term health condition or to older people (aged 60 years and over).

Not since the 20's

Continuing unfavourable conditions and lack of water kept agricultural production down during 2007-08, according to recent figures in the Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 2007-08 publication (cat .no 7111.0).

Rice plantings dropped to the lowest levels since 1927, from 20,000 hectares in 2006–07 to 3,000 hectares in 2007–08 while production was down 86% to 23,000 tonnes.

Sheep and lamb numbers - at 79 million head were also at their lowest levels since the 1920's, but plantings of grain sorghum came in at a record high of one million hectares, leading to a tripling in production to 4 million tonnes.

This publication provides preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the season and comparative data for the previous two years.

Client Liaison

Client Liaison

Summary of Events

Combined ESCG & SSCG

On 3 December the WA office of the ABS held a joint Economics Statistics Consultative Group (ESCG) and Social Statistics Consultative Group (SSCG) meeting in the Exchange Plaza, Perth.

Phil Smythe delivered a presentation describing the recently released population projections and the implications for future planning.

Erwin Swasbrook from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure spoke on their population forecasts.

The joint groups were also updated on the development of performance indicators linked to the COAG initiatives and the consultation process with WA agencies for the WA Indicator Framework System (WAIFS).

SBDC Outposting

What is the contribution of small business to the WA economy? That's a question the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) has been asking for quite a while.

To help them obtain this and other small business related measures the SBDC has engaged an ABS outposted officer, Kim Juhasz, to investigate the issues and devise possible solutions.

As part of this project a forum was held at the SBDC offices gathering interested parties to discuss their requirements in relation to small business.

This meeting demonstrated that there is strong interest in small business statistics and the results of the SBDC/ABS collaboration.

Australian Social Trends

On Tuesday 16 September, Dr. Paul Jelfs, the branch head of Social Analysis and Reporting at the ABS, held an Information Session to announce the release of the Australian Social Trends Publication (cat. no. 4102.0).

The publication presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. Articles are organised into eight chapters including population; family and community; health; education and training; work; economic resources; and housing, as well as a chapter of articles covering other areas of social concern.

Paul's presentation interpreted the results of the publication and highlighted points of interest, such as WA towns that had experienced population increases as a result of the minerals boom.

Sizzling Statistics

Sizzling Statistics

Crushed

There were 1,830,673 tonnes of grapes crushed in 2007-08. WA had 18.3% of the total number of wineries in Australia and crushed 3.4% of the total number of grapes (cat. no. 1329.0).

Record Births

There were 285,200 births registered in Australia in 2007. The highest ever. The previous record was in 1971 where there were 276,400 births recorded. In WA there were 29,164 births in 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0).

Good Sports

The Northern Territory had the highest sport volunteer rate, at 14.8%, followed closely by Western Australia with 13.9% and Queensland with 12.2%. New South Wales had the lowest sport volunteer rate, with only 9.5% of their population aged 18 and over volunteering for a sporting organisation (cat. no. 4440.0.55.001).

Health Check

In 2004-05, 39% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 18 years and over reported their health as excellent or very good and 26% reported their health as fair or poor. This compared with 41% and 21% respectively for Indigenous men (cat.no 4722.0.55.006).

Behind Bars

WA's imprisonment rate remains the nation's second highest at 239.6 per 100,000 of the adult population (September 2008). The Northern Territory is substantially higher at 614.1 while the ACT is lowest at 64.1 per 100,000. WA's rate of imprisonment, which was unchanged between 2005 and 2006 grew marginally in 2007 (cat. no. 4512.0).

How Long To Go?

Recently released life tables indicate that Western Australian males who are 40 years of age have the same amount of time to live, while for females it's another 42 years (cat no. 3302.5.55.001).

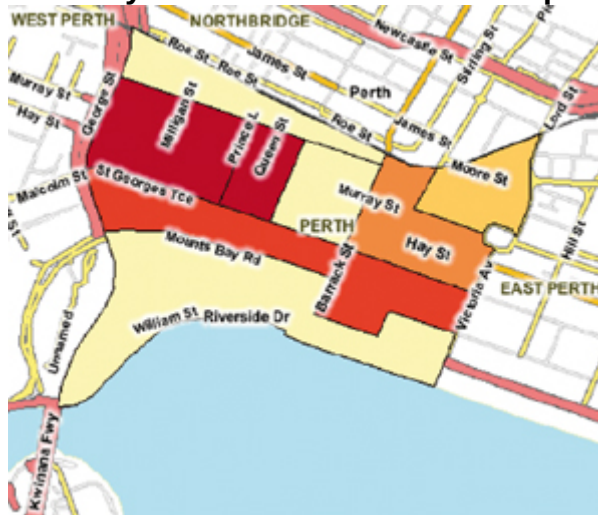
ABS Statistical Training

CDATA Online!

Your Census at work...

CDATA Online provides instant access to valuable Census data topics such as age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more. This free online product allows you to create your own tables, maps and graphs of Census characteristics for all ABS geographic areas.

View your data as a Thematic Map!



Analysing Data Made Simple

(How to present successfully with statistics.)

This two day computer based course develops practical skills in statistical and graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel.

Who should attend?

People with little or no knowledge of basic statistical and graphical data analysis techniques who need a basic understanding of how to analyse and describe survey data.

What are the benefits?

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form
- find simple relationships in survey data
- test for statistically significant differences between past and current survey results.

Date: 3 & 4 Feb 2009
Venue: Level 15, Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade, Perth
Cost: \$750
Registrations: (08) 9360 5205

Recent Releases

Recent Releases

Publications of Interest

Publication Title	ABS Catalogue Number
Education News	1330.0
Grape Crush & Wine Production	1329.0.55.003
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0
CDATA Online	2064.0
Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101	3222.0
Life Tables 2005 - 2007	3302.0.55.001
Perspectives on Sport	4156.0.55.001
National Survey of Mental Health & Wellbeing: Summary of Results	4326.0
Volunteers in Sport 2006	4440.0.55.001
Age Matters, November 2008	4914.0.55.001
Average Weekly Earnings	6302.0
Livestock Products	7215.0
Retail Trade Trends Oct 2008	8501.0
Building Approvals Australia	8731.0

About this Release

Stats Talk is a newsletter produced by the Western Australian office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews